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Antiquity of SCANDAL.

*The Magic feats of former days
Have only got another name,
But, call them by what terms you please,
Magic and Scandal are the same :
Thrice happy Britain to contrive
That antient Arts shou'd thus revive !*

Anonym. on MAGIC.

L O N D O N :

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B A L A A I

Antiquity of SCANDAL

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L O N D O N

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B A L A A M.

WHEN *Moab's* wiles had fail'd to move
The Virtuous strength of *Israel's* heart
From Honour, Faith, and Filial Love,
He flew for aid to *Balaam's* art.

Balaam the Wizard of the land
Dreaded for Necromantick power,
Cou'd each malignant star command,
And blast the Hero's natal hour.

O'er

O'er Matrons, and the virtuous throng
 Of Virgins chaste, his poisonous breath
 Like a black Vapour pass'd along,
 Imbrued with fame-destroying death.

To pall the taste, to dim the eyes
 Each philter'd juice he cou'd compose ;
 Cou'd make Avernall steams arise,
 And taint the breath of *Sharon's* rose.

Fame's trump he bore of crooked form,
 Channell'd and scoop'd on ev'ry side
 (Like *Sylla's* rock) for Scandal's storm
 To swell, redouble, and divide.

Thro' this the ear receiv'd his spell
 In many a harsh discording note,
 While Obloquy with voice of Hell
 Bark'd from her tripple-sounding throat.

Thus

Thus fraught with arts, corrupt with bribes,
 Incested by Ambitious lust,
 He deem'd to wither *Rachel's* tribes,
 And strow disgrace on *Jacob's* dust.

Envelop'd in a gloomy cloud
 The dread Inchanter took his stand,
 And blew th' Infernal trump aloud
 From the High places of the land.

A thousand miscreated Forms
 Sudden obscur'd the Morning's face,
 Dire Sounds were heard, and rising Storms
 Shook the wide region's solid base.

Again he blows the trump of death :
 Envy her matted tresses shakes,
 Dispersing with a Fury's breath
 Her many-spotted brood of Snakes,

The

The Basilisk with poisonous eye,
 The Asp with sleepy venom arm'd,
 The Hydra's many-headed cry,
 And stubborn Adder never charm'd.

The third the final blast he try'd,
 And breath of Stygian vapour blew,
 To raise corrupting mists and hide
 The Promis'd Land from *Israel's* view ;

But Heaven averts ; and from its Youth
 Detaches swift th' Angelick Power
 Guardian of Innocence and Truth,
 Of *Jacob's* sons and *Rachel's* dower.

Thro' the dark air his Visage beam'd
 With rays of that Primæval light,
 Which, ere the starry hosts were fram'd,
 Shone thro' the deep Abyfs of night.

“ Fly

“ Fly hence, he cry’d, ye boding train
“ That wing the air with Harpy found,
“ No haunts to shelter birds obscene,
“ No blemish is in *Israel* found:

“ Here plumed in gold each warbling throat
“ Shall hail the Turtle’s bridal nest,
“ Here Philomel in softer note
“ Shall sing the widow’d Dove to rest.

“ Cease, then ye Wizard eyes to roll,
“ Ye spells, like shooting meteors die,
“ Begot in regions dark and foul,
“ Expiring in a purer sky.”

He spoke; each midnight monster fled,
The sun illum’d his silver sphere,
Ambrosial sweets their fragrance shed,
And sounds Seraphick fill’d the Air.

B

“ How

“ How beauteous are the blooming vales
“ Pavilion'd o'er with *Israel's* Powers!
“ As gardens fann'd by fostering gales,
“ Chear'd by the sun, and nurs'd by showers.

“ How beauteous, on the rising hills,
“ His tents like spiring Cedars stand,
“ With verdure fresh from falling rills,
“ And planted by *Jehovah's* hand!

“ Behold ten thousand banners flow,
“ And glitter to the wafting gale!
“ All spotless as the new-born snow,
“ And pure as *Rachel's* nuptial veil!

“ Who can compute the drifting sands
“ That march on winds o'er *Lybia's* coast?
“ Or number *Jacob's* warrior bands,
“ Or count the Stars of *Israel's* host?

“ The

“ The future Sire shall clasp his boy,
“ And point to each illustrious Name ;
“ Matrons shall mark, with listening joy,
“ Their daughters songs on *Rachel's* Fame.

“ The hoary Sage shall often trace
“ From records of Prophetick verse
“ The lasting line of *Jacob's* race,
“ And to the growing Age rehearse,

“ *Thy Sons the promis'd Realms shall sway,*
“ *And scepter'd hands from Judah spring,*
“ *Till Time unrolls the distant day*
“ *When SHILOH shall again be King.*

F I N I S.

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